Investment of IOC on Mobile Petroleum Company

120. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment of Indian Oil Corporation on Mobile Petroleum Company and its percentage of shareholders;

(b) whether IOC has decided to walk out of this Joint Venture;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether IOC is planning for any new Joint Venture; and

(e) if so, the name of the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Indo Mobil Pvt. Ltd., with a paid up capital of Rs. 44 crore, is a 50:50 joint venture company between Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Mobil USA.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The reasons for IOC's withdrawing from this joint venture are as follows:

i) The Joint Venture had been making losses and the revival plans were not materializing.

ii) Consequent upon the merger of Mobil Petroleum with Exxon and in line with the business policies of Exxon Mobil Inc., the present holding of equity by IOC in Indo Mobil Pvt. Ltd. (IMPL) was sought to be procured by Exxon Mobil so as to make IMPL its wholly owned subsidiary.

iii) IOC in its pursuit to consolidate its lube business and also with a view to further improving the sales of its SERVO branded lubricants in the domestic market also felt appropriate to exit from Indo Mobile Pvt., Ltd.

(d) and (e) At Present, IOC is not planning any New Joint Venture.

Staff working in mobile Labs

121. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such officers who are working in Mobile Labs. in spite of the fact that they are not possessing the required educational qualifications in Chemistry;

(b) whether the Analysis report of such unqualified officers can be relied upon in the court of law; and

(c) what action is taken/proposed to be taken by Government to rectify this defect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) According to the information received from Oil Marketing Companies, officers possessing qualification in chemistry are working in Mobile Labs.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps

122. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the letter to the Editor, Ganashakti dated 29th September, 2001 titled "Petrol Pump-Swajan Poshaner Nojir";

(b) if so, whether any enquiry had been instituted and action taken by IOC; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As per the preliminary report received, the Dealer Selection Board have denied having made any comments against the Member of Parliament, mentioned in the 'letter to the Editor', while conducting interview of candidates for the retail outlet dealership for Surul, District Birbhum, West Bengal.

As regards other allegations made, further action can be taken after receipt of the order of the Kolkata High Court where a writ petition has been filed by one of the empanelled candidates.